

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti Confirmation No.: 8298  
Application No.: 10/003,996 Group Art Unit: 3733  
Filed: November 15, 2001 Examiner: Baxter J.  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TISSUE Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-014-8  
REMOVAL

**STATUS INQUIRY**

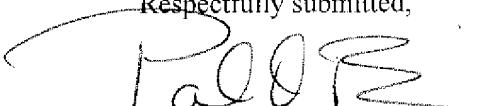
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests that action on the above-identified application be taken by the Office as soon as possible. It has been over two years since the last action on the merits. Previously, Applicant's representatives have left voice mail messages with the appropriate personnel in the technology center. However, Applicant now understands that the Examiner is no longer with the Office and the Primary Examiner has moved to another assignment. To date, no action has been taken.

In light of the foregoing remarks, early action is respectfully requested. If any questions remain regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned. Please charge any required fee (or credit any overpayments of fees) to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 503410 (Docket No. 780-A02-014-8).

Respectfully submitted,



Paul D. Bianco, Reg. #43,500

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